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SUBJECT SOCIO-POLITICAL INFORMATION OF THE USSR		Interviewer: WALTER, Tom (FN)	Editor: MAXIMOV
AREA REPORTED ON TAISHET, MARIINSK, MINSK, STALINGRAD USSR		FROM (Agency) 7050 AISW	
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PREPARED BY (Officer) FORD F. FOSTER, Captain USAF		SOURCE 270811	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) HICOG 270811-52-8758			
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)			
A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: 1. SOURCE was born on 19 November 1920 at WEILER (4735 N/955 E). His education comprised 8 years elementary and 3 years mechanics trade school. SOURCE was a mechanic by profession and claimed that during his captivity in the USSR he had learned to speak and read Russian fluently. 2. From May 1947 to July 1947 SOURCE was an inmate of an unidentified forced labor camp in TAISHET (5557 N/9802 E) where he worked as a lumberjack. From August 1947 to July 1949 SOURCE was interned in the so-called 2d Hospital in the TAISHET area, first as a patient and after his recovery as a ward attendant in this same hospital. From August 1949 to January 1950 SOURCE was in a forced labor camp, number or name of this camp he also did not know, in KOSTOMAROVO (5607 N/9817 E) where he worked as a supervisor in the tailoring and shoemaking shop of this camp. During February 1950 SOURCE was in charge of a small Diesel power plant at the 14th Kolkhoz which was also part of the TAISHET forced labor area. During all of March 1950 SOURCE was in the TAISHET central collection camp where he was not assigned to any particular duties. During all the above periods of time SOURCE had personal contact with deportees from different parts of the USSR and who were confined in the aforementioned areas. During April 1950 SOURCE was an inmate of PW Camp (# unknown) in MARIINSK (5612 N/8730 E) where he worked as ordinary laborer in the "Spirt Zavod Pervodo Maya" (Alcohol Plant 1 May). From May to January 1951 SOURCE was an inmate of the main PW camp, the number of which he did not recollect, in MINSK (5350 N/2735 E), where he worked as a construction laborer on the building site of the "Zavod Sharik Putshinik" (SOURCE'S own spelling of Ball Bearing Plant) and as plumber in family houses. From February 1951 to September 1953 SOURCE was in the PW Camp # 6124/1 in STALINGRAD (4845 N/4425 E) where he worked as welder on the assembly of steel structures in the Ordnance and Munitions Plant "Krasnaya Barrikada" (Red Barricade), and also as plumber on housing projects. During SOURCE'S occupation at the above mentioned places of work he had opportunity to talk to Soviet civilians who worked with him, but with whom he had no other personal contact. 3. SOURCE made the impression of being fairly reliable and his information seemed to be possibly true. He was of average intelligence and his ability to remember details was fair. Generally speaking SOURCE'S objectivity and willingness to cooperate was good.			
B. SOVIET ATTITUDES TOWARD GENERAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS: 4. It was the older Soviet generation which SOURCE considered to be more critical toward the Soviet regime because the elderly people felt that they had been freer and better off before. The groups among which SOURCE felt opposition to the			
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said that, according to rumors, these were heading for White Russia, Ukrainia and Georgia where a state of siege had been imposed. SOURCE did not know, however, if this was a direct result of BERIA'S downfall or of the SZG revolt. SOURCE only heard from these same Soviet workers that all high ranking MVD officials had to report to MOSKVA (5545 N/3735 E), and that a certain number were removed from office. SOURCE only noticed that stores were better stocked with consumer goods, such as clothing, housekeeping equipment, etc., whereas the food situation remained unchanged. SOURCE had no evidence of a slowdown in heavy industry or in large projects. On the contrary, SOURCE claimed to have read that MALENKOV emphasized a still greater rearming effort.

16. SOURCE had no knowledge of these measures and promises, as he had no contact with kolkhoze population at the time.

17. SOURCE only knew that generally the Communist Party and the Red Army were the real power in Soviet Government. He had no information concerning attitude of people toward individual leaders, nor any answers to further questions contained in this Paragraph.

18. The general attitude of the Soviet population, as far as SOURCE was able to determine among workers, was that of hopefulness. SOURCE was unable to say whether Soviets were happier under present regime than under Stalin, as there had been no substantial change up to September 1953. The people SOURCE talked to believed that there was a certain amount of propaganda in the promises made by the new Government. SOURCE had no information as to what the people actually thought about the line the Government would follow.

D) PURGES, RESISTANCE ACTIVITIES AND MASS ARRESTS:

19. SOURCE was an inmate of forced labor camp. SOURCE did not meet anyone who was arrested for conspiracy against the Soviet Government. He only knew a cossack colonel, who fought on the German side during WW II and who was turned over to Soviets by Western Allies, but SOURCE was unable to supply further information about him.

20. SOURCE only heard of existence of "Chornaya Koshka" (Black Cat) underground organization. SOURCE heard from Soviet workers that in August/September 1953 fire broke out in Ordnance and Munitions Plant "Krasnaya Barrikada" in STALINGRAD which was supposedly caused by said organization. According to the same source of information a shooting affray ensued, as a result of which a man and a woman of this organization were killed. Subsequent to this incident PW's were not allowed to enter above plant anymore. SOURCE heard further that it was an established practice to arrest all suspects on the eve of holidays and release them after they were over, as a means of forestalling possible subversive actions.

22. In 1949/50 while SOURCE was in TAISHET, he heard of a few thousand Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians who were deported to the IRKUTSKAYA O. During this same period of time SOURCE met some Volga Germans and other ethnic Germans from the ODESSA (4629 N/3044 E) area. These people told SOURCE that during WW II they were displaced to Central Asia. SOURCE had no information on Soviet Jews and so-called cosmopolitans; members of Vlasov Army as well as other collaborators were sentenced, with few exceptions, to prison camps in desolate northern districts of the USSR.

E) FORCED LABOR CAMPS:

23. SOURCE knew of several forced labor camps, none of which he knew the number of or name, and which were located between TAISHET and SAYARSK (5611N/1025 E), a distance of about 400 km. It was a current rumor that about 500 000 convicts from all over the USSR and its satellites were interned here in forced labor camps holding from 800 to 1500 persons each. All these convicts or deportees were engaged in SSR and highway construction from TAISHET to SAYARSK, as well as in different types of work related to these projects, such as deforestation etc. Individuals whose home address was within the boundaries of the USSR were allowed to write home.

24. In July/August 1948 SOURCE heard from German PW, whose family name was MEININGER, and whose home was in or near LEIPZIG (5118 N/1220 E) that he had known an United States Air Force Lieutenant by the name of PFEIFFER in an unidentified

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forced labor camp located about 140 km northeast of TAISHET, and about 20 km east of the 2d Hospital in which SOURCE was interned at the time he met MEININGER. According to MEININGER'S story, the American officer who at the time was intoxicated had gotten lost in the Soviet Sector of BERLIN (5230 N/1330 E) in 1946/47 while driving a jeep. SOURCE had no further details about this case.

25. At the end of 1948 or beginning of 1949 "blatnois" were removed from camps where they had been terrorizing their fellow inmates. In this connection SOURCE recalled incident in November 1948, when an all-out fight broke out between "blatnois" and "sukars" (a term employed for so-called renegade "blatnois"). This conflict was only subdued after the camp administration had obtained permission from the Government in MOSKVA to use firearms and about 40 rioters were killed.

Until 1949/50 prisoners in forced labor camps were paid for work exceeding established norms with extra food, as well as up to 80 Rubles per month. Normal food ration in forced labor camps as experienced by SOURCE, consisted of 700 gr bread, soup three times a day and once a day a bowl of "kasha" (groat porridge). 180 to 250 Rubles was deducted from prisoners pay in these camps for food and clothing. Any money earned above this sum was paid to prisoners in installments. In the PW camps 465 Rubles per month was deducted from prisoners pay for living expenses.

26. SOURCE was unaware of any atrocities that may have been committed by Soviet Government during and after WW II.

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